

# REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

**Chairperson,**  
Cllr. Joe Sullivan

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## MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 @ 2pm**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, CORK**

### **Present:**

Cllr. John Buttimer  
Cllr. John Carey  
Cllr. Timmy Collins  
Cllr. Henry Cremin  
Cllr. John Joe Culloty  
Cllr. Davy Daniels  
Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond  
Cllr. Michael Doyle  
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Breda Gardner  
Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro  
Cllr. Willie Kavanagh  
Cllr. Mike Kennelly  
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley

Cllr. Joe Malone  
Cllr. Michael McCarthy  
Cllr. Arthur McDonald  
Cllr. Louise McLoughlin  
Cllr. Jason Murphy  
Cllr. Ray Murphy  
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell  
Cllr. Aaron O'Sullivan  
Cllr. Seanie Power  
Cllr. Damian Quigg  
Cllr. Mary Shields  
Cllr. Joe Sullivan **Chairperson**

### **Apologies:**

Cllr. Deirdre Forde  
Cllr. Tom Wood

### **In Attendance:**

Dr Ger O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group  
Mr. Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation – Area 4  
Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan, Head of Primary Care, Community Healthcare Organisation – Area 5  
Mr Paul Gallen, Area Operations Manager, National Ambulance Service, HSE South  
Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

**1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016**

On the proposal of Cllr. Bobby O'Connell, seconded by Cllr. John Joe Culloty, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 were approved and adopted by the members.

**2. Chairperson's correspondence**

- Members were requested to turn off their mobile phones.

**3. Committee Meetings:**

Reports from the October Committee Meetings:

- (a) South East Committee Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
- (b) South West Committee Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

The next Committee Meetings of the Regional Health Forum South:

- (a) South East Committee Meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- (b) South West Committee Meeting to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

**4. Notice of Motions**

(a) Cllr. Ray Murphy and Cllr Jason Murphy moved the following Motion, standing their names:

"A recent report on Cardiac care in University Hospital Waterford, which was commissioned by the Government, revealed that services may be reduced in the hospital. It also suggested that an existing cardiac facility could be transferred to Cork. I would like to call on the Regional Health Forum board to do all it can to support the request by the people of the South East to have 24/7 cardiac care in University Hospital Waterford. Patients deserve to have treatment in their own region and a second catheterisation lab is a must for UHW."

Also

(h) Cllr. Davy Daniels moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"What does the H.S.E. mean by the 90 minute interval after a heart attack? Why has the Higgins Report which refers to the retention of certain regional services at UHW not been fully implemented in relation to Cardiology Services? Who was responsible for changing the regional status of the South East Region in relation to cardiac services at UHW? Do you consider "Clot Busting" as a suitable alternative to a Stent when a Stent is required?"

A written joint response from Mr Richard Dooley, General Manager, University Hospital Waterford was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Ray Murphy expressed the view that the population exists in the South East to merit a 24/7 Cardiac Care service including a second Catheterisation Laboratory. He was disappointed that the Herity Report did not support these enhancements.

Cllr. Jason Murphy spoke about previous plans to upgrade the University Hospital Waterford cardiac services and expressed regret that the Herity Report appeared to change those intentions. He was critical of the briefing note given to Professor Herity before he began the review and also of the reported change in risk assessment status.

Cllr. Davy Daniels expressed his regret at the present situation and asked if the Minister could meet a deputation of Forum members when he visits University Hospital Waterford on November 14<sup>th</sup> next.

In response Dr. G. O'Callaghan summarised the key points in the written responses. He highlighted the recommendation to improve cardiology services at University Hospital Waterford including the provision of 2 additional sessions per week for planned Catheterisation Laboratory Activity. The Department of Health will be undertaking a National review of all Primary PCI Services and this will be completed by July 2017. The Herity Report has been accepted by the Minister and is now Government policy.

The Chairman agreed that Minister Harris would be written to requesting that he meet a Forum deputation when he visits University Hospital Waterford on November 14<sup>th</sup> next.

In response to queries from Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald regarding the closure of 10 beds at University Hospital Waterford this week Dr. O'Callaghan explained that there is a nursing staff shortage and that recruitment is a problem throughout the country. He confirmed that the South/South West Hospitals Group is recruiting nurses all the time but there is a high turnover of staff.

(b) Cllr. Mike Kennelly moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That the HSE confirm that they will not be taking any actions to change the services provided at Saint Mary of the Angels Beaufort Co Kerry."

Also

(d) Cllr. John Joe Culloty moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"To call on the HSE to support the residents of St. Mary of the Angels in Beaufort, Co. Kerry, so that they may be allowed to live out their lives with dignity, in this wonderful facility which they call home."

Also

(f) Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That the forum would discuss Saint Mary of the Angels facility in Beaufort and answer why this consultation with families happened in this way and why these people were put on the housing list without the families consent or being informed."

A written joint response from Mr. Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Area 4, was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Kennelly noted that the communication between the St. John of God Order and the families of residents was handled badly and he acknowledged this had been accepted by the HSE and St. John of God Order.

Cllr. Culloty was pleased that the inclusion of residents' names on housing lists with Kerry Co. Co has been addressed. He also welcomed the HSE assurance that any proposed changes will be discussed with all relevant parties. Cllr. Culloty highlighted the high levels of experience and knowledge which the carers have and how valuable this is for the welfare of the residents. He thanked Mr. Reaney for his work to redress the problem and also for the information provided to him.

In response Mr. Reaney accepted the comments from the Councillors and acknowledged that communication was a major problem. He has arranged a meeting next week between the HSE Management Team and the St. John of God Order and also the families of the residents. Mr. Reaney confirmed that the HSE's plan is to improve people's lives and the needs of the residents will be addressed on a phased basis to establish their most appropriate settings for the future.

Mr. Reaney noted that further discussions will be required with the staff and more explanation of the opportunities being offered to residents to enhance their lives will be given. It is intended that existing staff will be encouraged to continue working with the residents in new community settings.

- (c) Cllr. Henry Cremin moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"To ask the HSE South why there is no database for users of Prosthetics, why there seems to be a refusal to sanction the repair of spare limbs, why there is a lengthy and complicated process in obtaining socks and liners and could the location of the Polar Unit be re-examined since its move from SMOH to the Mercy Hospital."

A written response from Mr. Ger Reaney was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Cremin noted the improvements for users and asked if he could discuss the matter further with Mr. Reaney after the meeting. This was agreed.

- (e) Cllr. John Buttimer moved the following motion standing in his name:

"That the HSE South would issue detailed costed report on Planned Capital Investment in the South/South West Hospital Group for the coming 5 years 2017 – 2021, with particular reference to hospitals in Cork City and County and that is would outline what investment is for the redevelopment/refurbishment of existing services and which is targeted for the delivery of new services."

A written response from Dr. Ger O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospital Group, was circulated to members and noted. In reply Cllr. Buttimer was encouraged by the significant capital investment to 2021. He asked if there was any progress to report on the new major hospital for Cork.

Dr. O'Callaghan advised that proposals are still being considered but will have no impact on the planned Capital Projects listed in the reply.

Cllr. Mary Shields requested an update on the Helipad provision at Cork University Hospital.

Further to Mr. J. McNamara's reply to Notice of Motion 4(e) at the HSE South Forum meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016, Dr. O'Callaghan advised that funding is now available for the project and that the expectation is that the Helipad will be in use by the end of 2017.

(g) Cllr. Arthur McDonald moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"Calling on the HSE to provide funding to St Luke's Hospital Kilkenny for additional beds and staff to alleviate the problem of people waiting in the corridors on chairs and trolleys at any given time. Can the HSE provide statistics on the number of people on trolleys and chairs at the hospital?"

A written response from Ms Anne Slattery, General Manager, St. Luke's Hospital was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. McDonald acknowledged the comprehensive reply but noted the ED attendances and medical admissions have been increasing in recent years without corresponding capacity to service a significant population of 155,000 approximately. The various initiatives taken at the hospital to improve the situation were noted. In reply Dr. O'Callaghan advised that a submission has been made for funding to increase the number of beds available but other priorities will also be considered nationally by the HSE/Department of Health.

## **6. Questions**

(a) Cllr. Joe Malone put forward the following question:

"How many suicides have we in Kilkenny City and County of those clients while under treatment and aftercare by Dept of Psychiatry, Kilkenny in 2014, 2015, 2016? Is there a Clinical Director in place? How many beds in St Lukes, DOP? How many Clients suffering with drug addiction waiting for placement and taking up beds resulting in the Suicidal and depressed being turned away?"

A written response from Ms. Aileen Colley, Chief Officer, Area 5 was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Malone acknowledged the reply but felt that 44 beds in the Department of Psychiatry Acute Inpatient Unit for Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary was too low.

Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan confirmed that the bed numbers available are above the 38 recommended in "A Vision for Change" and these are fully occupied most of the time. No increase in bed numbers is anticipated in the short term.

(b) Cllr. Henry Cremin put forward the following question:

"Can the Executive give an updated report on the status of the primary health care centre that was proposed for Deanrock in Togher but due to various issues was withdrawn."

Has any other site's being identified for this development in the South West or South Central Constituencies of the City and has it gone out for tenders who may show an interest in developing this."

Also

(e) Cllr. John Buttimer put forward the following question:

"To ask the HSE for an update on the provision of Primary Care Centres in Cork."

A joint written response from Mr Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, CHO Area 4 and Mr. Pat McCarthy Assistant National Director Estates, was circulated to members and acknowledged by Cllrs. Cremin and Buttimer.

Cllr. Cremin was delighted to learn that the Togher Area Project is at Stage 3, while Cllr. Buttimer asked if there are any planning issues.

Mr. Reaney referred to the list provided on Primary Care Centres in Cork and noted the progress made. Most of the premises will be built by private individuals and leased by the HSE. The HSE considers the geography of areas under consideration for development to ensure that all patients will have access to primary care services. The locations advertised are 'indicative' and various options will be considered to ensure maximum accessibility. There are no planning issues affecting progress at present.

(c) Cllr. Arthur McDonald put forward the following question:

"Following the Health and Safety Audit that was carried out on the current building where the Carlow Paramedics and Ambulance Services are located, the building was condemned and it was deemed as not fit for purpose. In light of this I would ask if the HSE could advise if a suitable alternative location will be provided as a matter of urgency as the current location is unfit for purpose."

A written response from Mr Paul Gallen, Area Operations Manager, National Ambulance Service, HSE South was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. McDonald asked if the St. Dymphna's Hospital premises is being considered as a base for the Carlow Paramedics/Ambulance service.

In response Mr. Gallen advised that all bases in the South are being reviewed and that the ambulance service has identified where new premises, refurbishing or extensions are required. There is no intention of closing the Carlow base and accommodation options, including St. Dymphna's Hospital, are currently under consideration.

There are plans to use additional deployment points (based on activity) around the Southern areas and there have been discussions with staff in recent weeks.

(d) Cllr. John Joe Culloty put forward the following question:

"To ask what plans the HSE have for St. Finan's Hospital in Killarney?"

A joint written response from Mr. Ger Reaney and Mr. Pat McCarthy was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Culloty thanked Mr. Reaney and Mr. McCarthy for the information provided in the response. He asked when the new community nursing unit will be open.

Mr. Reaney advised that the new unit should be open in 2017.

**7. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in February 2017 (Date to be confirmed), at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork. The date will be dependent on the 2017 Service Plan/Operational Plan being finalised.

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.